

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 NDJAME 02305 141011Z  
ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 SYE-00 SSO-00 A-01 /017 W  
-----050217 141015Z /10

O 140956Z JUN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA  
TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE  
SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7355

C O N F I D E N T I A L NDJAMENA 2305

KINSHASA FOR RSO FROM RT 300 COURIER CHANNELL

NAIROBI FOR RSO AND OFFICER IN CHARGE MARINE SECURITY  
GUARDS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: ASEC  
SUBJ: SECURITY PROBLEM AT AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE

1. RT 300 COURIER CHANNELL ARRIVED BRAZZAVILLE ON  
SCHEDULE AT 2300 HRS MONDAY, JUNE 12. CRO WILLIAM E.  
BELK MET COURIER PLANESIDE AND ASSISTED THROUGH AIRPORT  
FORMALITIES. WE REACHED THE EMBASSY AT APPROXIMATELY  
2320 HRS AND TRIED IN VAIN TO GET THE ATTENTION OF THE  
MARINE SEUCRITY GUARD ON DUTY. ATTEMPTS WERE MADE TO  
ROUSE HIM VIA TELEPHONE, RADIO, SHOUTING AND KNOCKING ON  
DOORS, WINDOWS, ETC.

2. AFTER TRYING FOR 45 MINUTES TO GAIN ACCESS TO THE  
EMBASSY WE REALIZED THAT OUR EFFORTS WERE AN  
EXERCISE IN FUTILITY. AT THIS POINT A CAR WAS DISPATCHED  
FOR THE NCOIC, AND WITHIN 15 MINUTES HE ARRIVED AT  
THE EMBASSY IN A LESS THAN SOBER STATE WITH  
ANOTHER MARINE GUARD. THE NCOIC HAD BEEN OUT FOR  
DINNER AND DRINKS WITH A GROUP THAT INCLUDED THE  
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PAGE 02 NDJAME 02305 141011Z

MARINE GUARD ON WATCH WHO HAD ASSUMED RESPONSIBI-  
LITY FOR THE POST AT 2200 HRS.

3. ONCE AGAIN ATTEMPTS WERE MADE TO ROUSE THE  
GUARD ON DUTY, BUT WITHOUT SUCCESS. THE YOUNG  
MARINE WHO ARRIVED WITH NCOIC SCALED THE OUTSIDE  
FACADE OF THE BUILDING AND GAINED ENTRANCE BY

CRAWLING THROUGH A LARGE OPENING ON THE SECOND FLOOR WHERE ONCE AN AIR CONDITIONER UNIT HAD BEEN. FROM INSIDE THE BUILDING THE MARINE WAS ABLE TO OPEN THE MAIN ENTRANCE.

4. ONCE INSIDE THE EMBASSY BUILDING, THE TWO MARINES LOADED A SHOTGUN WITH FOUR CARTRIDGES AND BEGAN A SEARCH OF THE BUILDING FROM ROOM TO ROOM AND FLOOR TO FLOOR WITH WEAPON AT THE READY. AT 0030 HRS, THE MARINE ON DUTY WAS FOUND FAST ASLEEP IN A SUB-BASEMENT AREA OF THE BUILDING. THE MARINE WHO HAD FALLEN ASLEEP ON DUTY WAS ORDERED TO TURN IN HIS WEAPON AND UNIFORM AND SENT TO HIS QUARTERS.

5. THE COURIER REQUESTED CRO WILLIAM E. BELK TO WAKE THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER AND BRING HIM TO THE EMBASSY IN ORDER TO TAKE CHARGE OF THIS APPALLING SITUATION. MR. EUGENE BAILEY CAME TO THE EMBASSY, ASKED A COUPLE OF QUESTIONS, AND DROVE THE COURIER TO HIS HOTEL. THIS CORIER DOES NOT KNOW HOW THE RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITIES ARE GOING TO TO PURSUE THIS MATTER; HOWEVER, IT IS HIS OPINION THAT PROFESSIONAL SECURITY OFFICERS FROM OUTSIDE SHOULD MAKE AN IN-DEPTH INVESTIGATION OF THIS INCIDENT. THIS IS CERTAINLY ONE OF THE MOST BIZARRE AND SERIOUS SECURITY  
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PAGE 03 NDJAME 02305 141011Z

INCIDENTS THAT THE COURIER HAS WITNESSED IN HIS 16 YEARS AS A COURIER.

6. THERE ARE MANY RAMIFICATIONS TO THIS INCIDENT: (A) THERE ARE GLARING CAPS IN THE PHYSICAL SECURITY OF THE EMBASSY BUILDING; (B) THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE MARINE DETACHMENT WITH QUESTIONABLE LEADERSHIP AND DISCIPLINE; (C) THE HIGH RISK OF AN ACCIDENTAL SHOOT-OUT BETWEEN TWO ARMED SECURITY GUARDS IN THE EMBASSY BUILDING; AND (D) ONE WONDERS WHO AT HIGHER LEVELS IN THE EMBASSY HAS PERMITTED THE SITUATION TO DETERIORATE TO THIS ALARMING STATE.

7. THIS COURIER IS SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE NAIROBI ON SATURDAY, JUNE 17 AND CERTAINLY WILL BE AVAILABLE TO DISCUSS THIS MATTER IN FURTHER DETAIL WITH OFFICIALS IN NAIROBI. BRADFORD

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**Type:** TE  
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